

# Charles Carter: Symbolic Directions . . .

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE "MEASURE OF DEATH"

TO FORETELL DEATH accurately from the nativity has always been regarded as a true test of astrological proficiency, but, whilst the art of prophecy can claim many successes in this direction, it has never reached anything like infallibility.

Nor, perhaps, will it ever do so. Astrological prophecy is always a matter of judgment. Influences are calculated and appraised, but at the end it is always the judgment which must weigh them and deduce the *probable*, not the *inevitable*, result. If we put a 2oz. weight on one side of the scales and a 3oz. weight on the other, we *know* that the result will be the depression of the second. If we find that a feeble person of 70 has **ten** evil directions, we cannot *know* that death will result; we can but judge that this will be the case.

Nevertheless, certain investigations which have recently been made have thrown much fresh light on this problem.

But let me pause here, and most earnestly advise my reader to reflect whether he or she desires further knowledge on this matter. It is no shame to have a natural repugnance at the possibility or even the probability of death; still less is it a matter of shame to fear death for others whom one loves. Only if death has little terror for you ought you to study this chapter, for (though I make no boastful claims and only wish to state what appear to be facts) I believe that there is much to reveal.

Let us glance at conventional teaching on this subject.

We know that as a rule astrologers believe that either the Sun, the Moon, or the ascending degree is hyleg, or the



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index of life and death, and that at death one of these, at least, must be afflicted. Usually it is said that the one that is hyleg must be subject to an evil direction of a potent sort, and many claim that a train of such is generally to be found. If the 6th or 8th house is involved, so much the worse.

We have no quarrel with this doctrine, which is no doubt true as far as it goes, though we regard the conventional systems of directing as being of **very uncertain** value.

We may further add that a very critical time usually arises when a malefic comes by one-degree direction to an angle. This often affects the physical welfare, especially if the malefic be badly aspected at birth. If it comes (a) from near the cusp of the 2nd to the ascendant, (b) from 6th to nadir, (c) from 8th to descendant, or (d) from 12th to mid-heaven, then the results are especially likely to come in terms of health. No actual danger may be encountered, but it is always a critical time, or at least a very trying one. This was my own experience when asc. came to opposition Neptune (natally in 8th) at the age of 38, and about the same time Mars, coming from 5th to nadir, caused much sickness in relation to children.

The angles, after all, stand for physical manifestation, and any malefic threat directed to them from planets concerned, in the special map in question, with health (as by being in, or ruling, the 6th, 8th, or 12th) must symbolize some interruption in the native's manifestation on earth. Death, we know, levels all, and destroys all honours and distinctions of rank. This must often be indicated by an affliction to the meridian, unless the native be very mean and lowly indeed.

But these general rules are quite inadequate, and persons with very bad nativities, as well as directions, sometimes live very long. The afflictions will do much, but may just fail to kill.

An investigation of about 100 cases of death, in the light



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of certain directional systems, has given me much more on which to build.

These results can be very succinctly stated, although a good deal of work was involved in finding them.

### 1. Jupiter and Neptune.

It is an interesting point that these planets, the one an acknowledged benefic and the other certainly not violent, have special relation to death. Not, probably, to the antecedent causes of death, such as accident or sickness, but to the actual liberation of soul from body, which, in some respects at least, Astrology cannot regard as an evil.

In all my cases save only two exceptions, I find that there is an aspect between these two bodies at death, calculated by the one-degree measure.

It is interesting to note that in each of these two exceptions the two bodies are in conjunction at birth, and although, by this measure, they form no direction at death, there are similar directions, to wit, in No. 1, Neptune square Mercury in Pisces, and, in No. 2, Neptune sextile Mercury in Pisces.

It must be noted that the aspects here indicated are of all kinds.<sup>1</sup> I have used the minor as well as the major, the so-called good as well as the so-called evil. The orbs, at death, have been kept very close, except with conjunctions and oppositions, which sometimes run to 7°. Squares and trines are as a rule no more than 3°, and the minor aspects are not allowed more than 2°. I have also found that an aspect of exactly 100° occurs so frequently that I have had to allow it, but with no more orb than 1°. About a third of the whole list is exact to less than 1°.

With reference to the occurrence of good aspects at death, these may indicate an easy passing, or one that was desired—some of the cases are of suicide and others of very

<sup>1</sup> The Naronic Directions for all of the eight cases given in the book are tabulated on p. 26 *supra*.



old persons. In all cases there are "bad" aspects of *some* sort, but although a direction between Jupiter and Neptune seems almost imperative, this may be a trine or sextile.

2. The list given on page 28 will give some idea of the frequency with which we find the Sun in affliction with Neptune (by duodenary calculation) at death. I believe this occurs as often as about nine times in ten, the opposition and conjunction being commonest, but the quincunx being by no means infrequent.

3. Directions between the Moon and Neptune, and between the Moon and Jupiter, are common, though not so frequent as between Jupiter and Neptune. These again are based on the 1° measure.

As regards Moon-Neptune, all sorts of aspects occur, but between Moon-Jupiter the quincunx occurs in about 10% of the cases.

All that these observations can do is to give additional means of checking the possibility of death when other directions are of a kind to allow of such a contingency.

We may glance at our five examples, given already.<sup>1</sup> Case No. 1, it will be remembered, did not die.

No. 2 shows Jupiter exactly 100° from Neptune. Neptune is Q. Moon, within 2°. Moon and Jupiter are hardly in aspect, there being only a wide semi-square.

Neptune is opposed to Sun, duodenary.

No. 3. Jupiter is sq. Neptune. Moon is not in aspect with Neptune, but that planet is in Cancer. Moon is sq. Jupiter.

Sun is conj. Neptune exact, duodenary.

No. 4. Neptune sq. Jupiter, Moon conj. Neptune, and Jupiter trine Moon.

Sun is conj. Neptune at birth, and, since death occurred

<sup>1</sup>I may say these examples were chosen before the investigation into the subject of death had begun, and without any reference to the tests now given, in regard to which they are in the position of having been *chosen at random*.



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at 9, no direction could be formed by duodenary measure between them. By this progression Sun is on the M.C. and Saturn conj. cusp 8th.

No. 5. Jupiter opposition Neptune, and Moon Q. Jupiter, 2°. Neptune is sextile Moon.

By duodenary, Sun is exactly conj. Uranus, but has no aspect with Neptune. It is in semi-square with it at birth.

No. 6. Neptune sesq. Jupiter, but Moon has no direction to either body.

Also, the Sun has no direction to Neptune, duo., the chief duodenary affliction being asc. opp. Saturn.

We must now pass from these helpful but defective rules, to one to which I have not yet found an exception, and which reduces the possible times of death, during an average life-time, to very few indeed, at least in the great majority of cases. At the same time it does not appear to denote inevitable death. When it is inoperative, demise seems impossible, but when it is operative it does not necessarily follow that death will ensue. To decide that, as far as decision is possible, reference must be had to other matters, mentioned above. But none of these can act without the concurrence of the *Measure of Death*.

This measure is, indeed, simplicity itself.

It consists of a uniform progression of 1° to every four years, or 15' to the year. Four is the number of manifestation; under its influence we assume and discard our physical frames.

I have yet to find a single case wherein there was not at least one severe affliction, usually exact to one degree or less, by this measure at the time of death. Usually the 8th house is involved, and here we have no question of quintile, decile, or other minor aspect or of imaginary planets, but major aspects of a violent character. I only make the excep-

*Measure of death: 15' = 1 ar  
1° = 4 ar*



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tion that the Quincunx, at least in this connection, is important.

Turning to the examples given already, we may observe that this measure seems to relate primarily to death, and death only, or to near escapes therefrom. Thus in Case No. 1, which did not result in death, we find Uranus opposed to the M.C. Saturn is certainly in square to Mercury. Jupiter and Neptune, ruling the 8th, have no affliction that can be deemed within orbs—for we demand an orb of not much more than  $1^{\circ}$  at most.

In Case No. 2, who died, we have Mars opposition the asc. by the Death Measure, Uranus conj. 8th cusp and square Saturn lord 8th, and Saturn lord 8th square Mercury in that house.

It is true that the Sun is also sextile Saturn, but it would seem that in this measure good directions do little. The malefic nature of the measure cancels out with the benefic nature of the direction; perhaps it even overcomes it (see Case 4 below).

No. 3 brings Neptune to cusp 8th and Mars to its square. The cusp 8th itself will be quincunx Saturn, and Sun quincunx Uranus. Venus is conj. Neptune, and Uranus opp. Venus—an appalling array of directions. All within one degree.

We must recall that, as the measure is so slow, every direction counts for more than it would in a system wherein aspects are formed much more rapidly.

No. 4 has Uranus opp. Sun, just over  $1^{\circ}$ , the Sun and the opposition both justifying a rather larger orb. There are numerous good aspects by the same measure, such as Venus to Moon, Moon to Saturn, and Saturn to Mercury and Neptune. But Saturn, being opposed to the rising degree, seems to have turned all these to evil. Notice that the radical descendant is exactly between the two malefics in the natus.



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No. 5 shows Uranus sq. Neptune, Mars quincunx Uranus, and asc. opp. Uranus.

No. 6, a rather difficult case from other points of view, yields Saturn sq. Neptune, Neptune opp. Mars, Mars sq. Mercury, and Moon conj. Venus. Cusp 8th is conj. Saturn.

In the nativity of a lady born at 10.35 p.m., local time, at Warsaw, on the 20th January, 1899, we find, at the age of 29½ years, when she was very dangerously asphyxiated, Sun square Jupiter, Venus past the opposition of that planet, and Sun in exact quincunx. Here there was recovery also, which shows that these directions must not be regarded as necessarily fatal, even when they are fairly severe. Only, because of their relative fewness in the average horoscopes, they must assuredly be regarded seriously. Note that in this case the Sun has good duodenary directions in the 7th—her husband, an officer of high rank in the Imperial Russian Navy, to whom we are indebted for the data, found and revived her. Otherwise, by this measure, Mercury, Jupiter, and the asc. are all in affliction with Neptune; and the sub-duodenary ratio brings the ruler Venus, also ruling the 8th, to the exact opposition of that planet.

The data are:

Asc.  $6^{\circ}.3$  ♈, M.C.  $8^{\circ}.3$  ♎, ☉  $0^{\circ}.7$  ♋, ☿  $26^{\circ}.0$  ♏, ♀  $8^{\circ}.7$  ♍,  
♀  $16^{\circ}.0$  ♌, ♂  $28^{\circ}.0$  ♏ ♎, ♄  $8^{\circ}.4$  ♍, ♃  $19^{\circ}.8$  ♌, ♁  $6^{\circ}.8$  ♌,  
♊  $22^{\circ}.5$  ♏.

Positions in degrees and decimals of a degree.

The reader can test this measure by numerous cases, as I have done; and I have about as much confidence in it as in anything astrological.

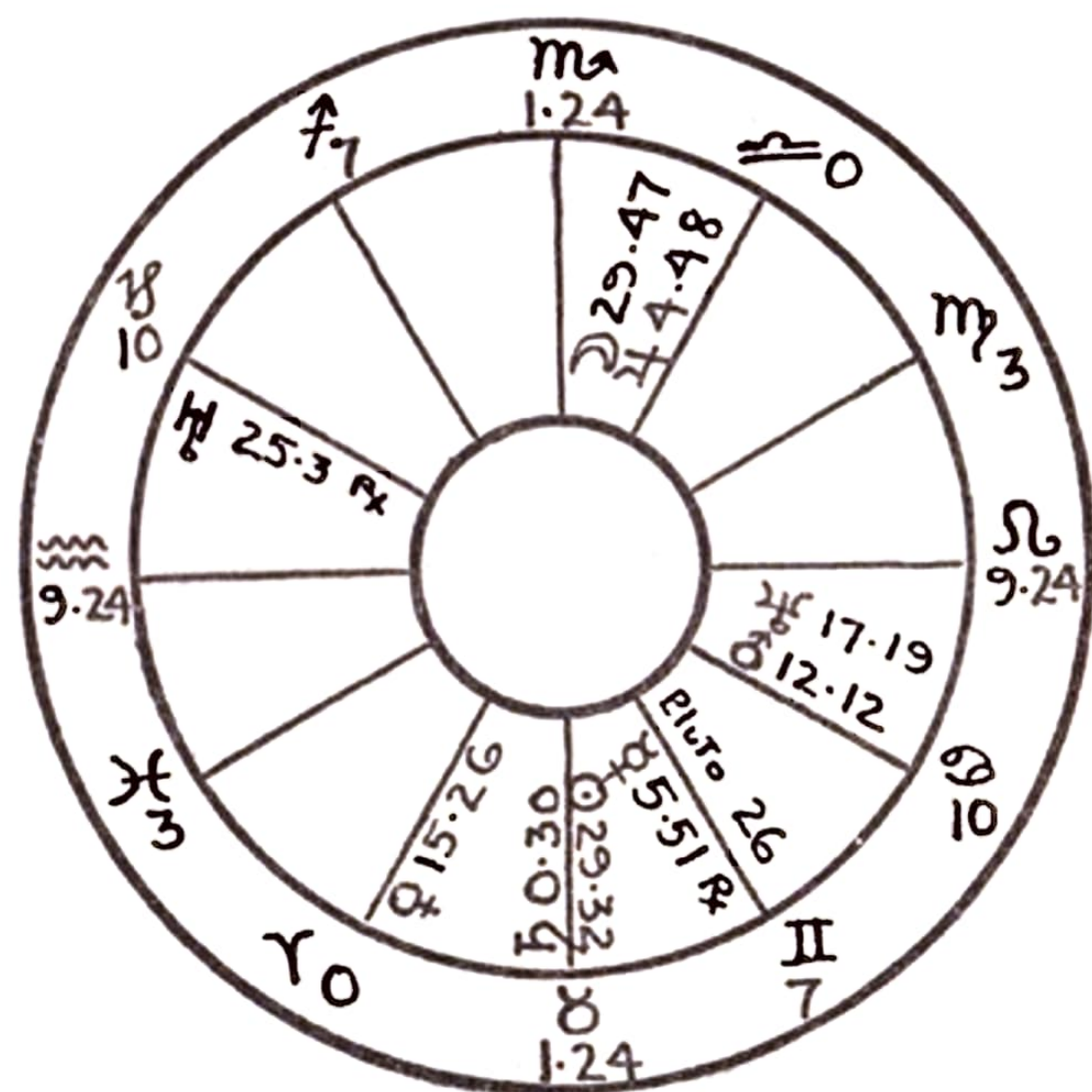
But as we have had six examples, and the ancients were accustomed to say that "Unequal numbers please the gods," we will take a seventh case at random from among those unpublished ones that I have used in my researches.

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## CASE NUMBER SEVEN

This poor child, born on the 21st May, 1910, at Sydney, Australia, was murdered by her father about 11 p.m., 5th February, 1924, together with two sisters.

Radically, this terrible fate is shown by the afflictions in cardinal signs, and more especially by Venus square Mars, a common feature in maps of unhappy childhood, whilst Saturn holds the nadir.



*Arc of Death: 13° 43'*



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The Measure of Death gives us Mars sq. Venus, and cusp 8th sq. Mercury lord 8th.

By Duodenary we have Neptune sq. Sun, wide, Uranus sq. Sun, Sun sq. Jupiter, and Saturn conj. Mercury.

By Novenary measure Mars is sq. Sun and Neptune conj. cusp 8th.

By Septenary, Sun is sq. Moon, and Jupiter is opp. Mercury.

Our One-Degree tests show us Jupiter square Neptune and Neptune square Moon, both close. Moon and Jupiter are without directional aspect, but are in the same sign at birth, a circumstance which sometimes seems to accompany an omission to form a direction at death, as we noted when treating of the Jupiter-Neptune indications.

By ordinary one-degree direction we get Venus opp. Moon, Mars opp. Uranus, Neptune sq. Saturn, and Uranus conj. asc.

An array such as is given above, based on a case selected without pre-examination, ought to convince the most obstinate skeptic of the utility and validity of Symbolic Directing. We may repeat, that directions by the *swifter* measures are of secondary import perhaps; but when they are formed at the rate of  $1^{\circ}$  per annum, and still more when they occur according to a measure of  $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  to the year, we are justified in attributing much value to them. When, therefore, many of these coincide *in time and in nature*, an event of great importance is certainly indicated.

The only criticism which I can see with respect to the  $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  measure is, that even if we allow only an orb of  $1^{\circ}$  on each side of it, this is equivalent in time to four years each way, so that we should have an epoch of eight years during which death would be possible.

In the ordinary way this period would have to be reduced

Indicating



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by a study of other methods, such as have been explained herein, together with transits and secondary lunar directions.

But I believe that the Measure of Death may be *reversed*, so as to yield a much more exact indication. Instead of  $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$  take  $4^{\circ}$  to the year and see what happens. An orb of  $1^{\circ}$  then equals, not 4 years, but 3 months.

In Case No. 7, the arc of death is  $13^{\circ} 43'$ . Multiply by 4, and we have  $54^{\circ} 52'$ . Apply this to Mercury, ruling 8th, and we bring it to  $0^{\circ} 43'$  Leo, which is  $13'$  from square of Saturn. At this rate,  $13'$  equals about 19 days! Sun is also brought close to the opposition of Uranus, ascendant to opp. Jupiter, and this latter to quincunx Saturn.

Thus it seems that the number Four (as any student of arcane science would expect) is a complete guide to the problem of Death.